

The Newsletter of Auburn Heritage Association



Progress thru Preservation

The Auburn Heritage Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting Auburn's history. Donations are tax deductible

A H A E R E C T S T W O H I S T O R I C M A R K E R S I N A U B U R N



A winter historic marker dedication ceremony was held on January 29, 2012 at the Auburn Train Depot signifying Jefferson Davis Reviewing the Auburn Guards in 1861 on his way to be inaugurated as President of the Confederacy. This was a joint effort by the Auburn Heritage Association, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Robert E. Lee Camp #16, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Auburn Guards Chapter # 2677 and the Historic Chattahoochee Commission.

About 80 people were in attendance. Guests were entertained by the string band, Wiregrass, led by Philip Stroud. AHA President, Mary Norman welcomed the guests and gave a short history of the Auburn Guards, and SCV Chaplain, Dave Crosslin gave the invocation. Honored guests were introduced, including the SCV Commander for the Auburn Camp, Jerry Purcell, and Dot Lee, President of the UDC Auburn Guards. Ann Pearson, HCC Representative for the Historic Chattahoochee Commission brought greetings from the HCC. Councilwoman Sheila Eckman received the marker for the City of Auburn.

Special points of interest:

- AHA erects two historic markers in Auburn.
- Membership party goes back to Pebble Hill
- Work on Pine Hill Cemetery grant begins
- Work on Pinetucket Cemetery also begins

Special thanks to Race and Heather Cannon for providing the chairs, the Auburn Guards UDC for providing refreshments, and the City of Auburn for providing safety crossings.



Left: Dr. Ann Pearson representing the HCC Right: AHA Board of Directors in front of marker, Angie Denning, Charles Hendrix, Cathy Jones, Kitt Conner, Mary Norman, June Spooner, Mary Lou Smith, John Rice and Fran Dillard.

MAX MORRIS MARKER DEDICATION

The Max Morris Drill Field on Auburn University campus was dedicated in 1953 by Dr. Luther Duncan and then Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Dr. Ralph Draughon. Max Morris was a graduate of Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1942, a varsity football player, a member of the "A" Club, Scabbard and Blade and Blue Key honor societies.

While attending ROTC summer camp at Ft. Benning in 1941, Morris rescued API cadet Wayne B. Nelson, Jr. and attempted to rescue API cadet H. Daughtry Perritt from an electrical shock. A radio antenna had become electrically charged. Perritt touched the antenna, was shocked and became unconscious. Nelson, who thought Perritt has been



Michael Morris, Melia Morris and Max F. Morris



Auburn ROTC Present at Marker Dedication

overcome by heat, came in contact with the charged antenna, was also shocked and became unconscious. Max Morris took hold of Nelson's arm and was also shocked, but able to get his hands free. He took hold of Nelson again and tugged him backward, saving his life. He also struck

Perritt with a pillow, got him free, but the antenna broke over Morris and was shocked again. API cadet Donald L. Kelley used a board to lift the antenna from Morris. Morris and Nelson were revived, but Perritt could not be revived.



AU ROTC Col. Stewart Robbins, Jimmy Rane, Wayne B. Nelson, III, Charles Hendrix, Max F. Morris, Wayne Kelley, Bob Kelley

For his act of heroism, Morris was awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism in 1941. He went on to graduate in 1942, entered WWII as a second lieutenant in field artillery, being promoted to Major the end of the war. During the Korean War, Morris served in the 57th Field Artillery, Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. He was killed in combat in the Chosin Reservoir in 1950 and his remains were never found.

In November of 2011, the Auburn University Board of Trustees elected to re-dedicate Max Morris Drill field in front of the Nichols Center on Auburn's campus due to the efforts of Auburn Heritage Association's



Douglas Chambers of the Carnegie Hero Fund presenting Max Morris' replacement medal to his grandchildren, Melia and Michael Morris.

by



Blount County Probate Judge David Standridge, Kitt Conner, Charles Hendrix, Max F. Morris, Amy & Leland Rhudy, Mary Norman, Winnie Boyd, Mike Bunn and Fran Dillard

Board member, Dr. Charles Hendrix. Charles did all of the research for the marker, helped to write the marker text, and contacted the families of Max Morris, Wayne B. Nelson, H. Daughtry Perritt and Donald L. Kelley. Approximately 65 family members attended the dedication of the Max Morris field and historic marker on May 24, 2012. A total of over 150 were in attendance for the dedication, which included a color guard by Naval ROTC; singing of the National Anthem, led by the Auburn University singers; Invocation by Larry Fillmer, Executive Director of Program Development Office for the office of the Vice President for

Research; recognition of special guests and the families by AHA President, Mary Norman; the dedication speech of former Auburn University President Ralph B. Draughon by Drew Clark, Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment; comments by Jimmy Rane, Auburn University Board of Trustees; and Mike Bunn, Executive Director of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission. The presentation of the replacement of the Carnegie Medal for Heroism was made by Douglas R. Chambers, of the Carnegie Hero Fund; and final remarks were given by Max A. Morris' son, Max F. Morris. Dr. Timothy Boosinger, Interim Provost, welcomed guests and acted as Master of Ceremonies. At the closing of the remarks, the marker was unveiled by Jimmy Rane, Timothy Boosinger, Max F. Morris, H. Marion Perritt, Wayne B. Nelson, III, Wayne L. Kelley and Auburn University Army ROTC.

Immediately after the ceremony, the Auburn Heritage Association held a reception for the families at Pebble Hill. Gifts of mess plates dating from 1942, with engraved lines from the occasion were given out by Dr. Charles Hendrix to members of the Morris, Nelson, Perritt and Kelley family. Max F. Morris presented the AHA with a plaque of appreciation acknowledging Dr. Hendrix's contribution to the project. Amy Rhudy from the Blount County Historical Society presented Hendrix with a copy of the Blount County Heritage Book.

"Auburn, Sweet Auburn, History, Stories and Epitaphs of Pine Hill Cemetery 1836-2010"

Introduced in December 2010, this book has been 15 years in the making. A volunteer effort of the Auburn Heritage Association, it started with the Lantern Tours at Pine Hill in 1996 and continued with the culmination of this publication. Over the years scripts about the inhabitants of Pine Hill have been researched and written by relatives, volunteers and performed in an amateur theatrical production in the cemetery. However, this publication about Pine Hill goes a bit further. The book is comprised of an introduction of the recent history of Pine Hill, improvements made over the years, historical markings and honors. It also includes a full re-enumeration of the 1600 graves in the cemetery.

The beautiful hard bound 8 1/2 " X 11" book is available for \$30.00 from the Auburn Heritage Association. These are limited edition copies and over half have been sold already. We are sure you would want one for each of your family members. To order a book, send a check made payable to the Auburn Heritage Association, P.O. Box 2248, Auburn, AL 36830. If you would like your book mailed to you, please add \$5.00 for postage. If you are local, we can make arrangements for you to pick up your book.

AHA MEMBERSHIP PARTY AT PEBBLE HILL

After being gone for several years, the Auburn Heritage Association held its annual membership party on May 1, 2012 at its headquarters, Pebble Hill. Guests and members were welcomed with wine from Kroger and refreshments from the Board of Directors. Many thanks to all who came and supported the AHA and to those who participated.



Fran Dillard receiving Community Service Award

Fran Pick Dillard was the recipient of the Community Service Award for her outstanding contributions to local history. Her donation of the Cary-Pick House(1853) to Auburn University for the Women’s Philanthropy Board and the land to build the new Pick elementary school were among just a few of her accomplishments. A member of the AHA Board, Fran, over the years has contributed to the AHA many resources.



AHA President, Mary Norman gave an overview of the accomplishments of the organization over the past year and of future projects. The work at Pine Hill Cemetery as a result of the grant received by the Alabama Historical Commission is proceeding and should be completed by summer’s end. Pinetucket Cemetery is just beginning and will take more time to complete. She commented on the historic marker dedication at the Train Depot and the upcoming dedication at the Max Morris Drill Field on campus. A marker dedication for Samford Hall/Old Main is expected in the fall of the year, so look for the date and time coming out this summer. Plans for the Woman’s Club/James Henry Lane house are being completed to place it on the National Register.



Cathy Jones, Mary Norman, Reita Page and June Spooner

pleted to place it on the National Register.

Many thanks to the band “WireGrass” for entertaining us during the evening with blue grass music. It has been a successful year for the AHA and many thanks to the AHA Board for all their work this past year and for providing refreshments for the party.



AUBURN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

DONATIONS—NEW MEMBERS—LIFE MEMBERS

DONATIONS AT THE PATRON LEVEL

*David & Rebecca Carroll
Kitt Conner
Virginia H. Beck
Mr. H. Don Lambert
John and Jim Rand
Committee to elect Tom Whatley*

DONATIONS AT THE FRIEND LEVEL

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Bob & Betty Hare
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Jim & Joy McGowen*

LIFETIME MEMBERS

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Mrs. Ercel Friel Donnehoo
Mrs. Frances P. Dillard
Dr. & Mrs. David Elton
Mr. Jim Folmar
Mr. John Folmar
Ms. Nancy F. Huey
Mrs. Jean Friel Hultgren
Mrs. Elizabeth D. Lipscomb
Dr. Ann B. Pearson*

NEW MEMBERS

*George H. Blake
Shannon Frasier Bozzell
Richard and Gail McCullers*

We sincerely appreciate your donations and support! All donations are tax deductible.



Auburn Heritage Association

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Auburn Heritage Association

Officers and Board Members

President—Mary Norman
Vice President & Secretary—Kitt Conner
Treasurer—Angie Denning
Ann Pearson—HCC Representative

BOARD MEMBERS

Winnie Boyd
Fran Dillard
Charlie Hendrix
Cathy Jones
John Rice
Mary Elizabeth Shaw
Mary Lou Smith
June Spooner

The Auburn Heritage Association Board meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month September—May

12:00 noon at Pebble Hill

All members and the public are invited to attend.

HISTORIC MARKER DEDICATION

Samford Hall/Old Main

To be held this Fall on Campus in front of Samford Hall

Check later for further details.



Work Party at Pinetucket Cemetery

Work at Pinetucket Cemetery is just beginning. The AHA Board voted to include Pinetucket as a project to begin working on other cemeteries in the Auburn area that are in need of work.

Pinetucket is across the street from AHA President, Mary Norman's home, in the middle of the Auburn University Beef Teaching Unit pasture. Its first dates go back to a Margaret Boyd Foster born on the Atlantic Ocean in 1800. It is estimated approximately 50 people are buried at Pinetucket Cemetery. However, only a few markers remain.

The work at Pine Hill Cemetery continues with Columbus Monument Company. Over 200 markers will be cleaned and repaired at the cemetery. Recently some additional vandalism has occurred and the AHA has stepped in to upright some large monuments that have fallen.

There continues to be concern about the vandalism in the cemetery and



Thach Graves repaired and cleaned in Pine Hill Cemetery



Cullars Graves Cleaned

how these markers are being toppled.